

**LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND  
MINUTES**

DATE: April 11, 2016  
PLACE: Lincoln Middle School  
152 Jenckes Hill Road  
Lincoln, RI 02865  
TIME: 7:00 PM – Open Session

School Committee Members Present: Kristine Donabedian, Chair; Mary Anne Roll, Vice Chair;  
John Carroll, Clerk; Tracey Cavanaugh, Staci Rapko-Bruckner, Julie Zito  
Absent: John LaFleur

Others Present: Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent; Alec Ciminello, Caroline Frey, Mark Gadbois,  
Armand Milazzo, Lori Miller, Maryann Struble, Attorney Benjamin Scungio

Opening Ceremony

Right to be Heard – None.

I. Consent agenda

Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Rapko-Bruckner. All in favor.  
Motion carried 6-0.

1. Salary Warrants
2. Expense Warrants
3. Approval of Disposition of Obsolete Textbooks
4. Out of State Field Trip Requests
5. Civic Use of Buildings
  - Lusitana Sports Soccer Clinic – LHS Ferguson Field
  - 4/30/16, 5/7/16, 5/14/16 and 5/21/16, 9:00 AM -10:30 AM
6. Home School Requests
  - Ms. Karen McNally
  - Mr. and Mrs. Semedo
  - Ms. Kimberly Zaharias
7. Personnel Recommendations

**Resignations**

- |                   |            |                             |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Hope Valloney  | From:      | 1.0 Preschool – Northern    |
|                   | Effective: | March 18, 2016              |
| b. Susan Quigley  | From:      | Secretary II - Saylesville  |
|                   | Effective: | June 6, 2016                |
| c. Samantha Simas | From:      | Drama Advisor – High School |
|                   | Effective: | April 6, 2016               |

**Teacher Appointments**

None

**Support Staff Appointments**

- a. Lisa Lopes
- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| To:        | 1:1 Teacher Assistant – Saylesville Elementary |
| Effective: | March 29, 2016                                 |
| Salary:    | \$17.70/hour                                   |

**Coaching Appointments**

- a. Domenic Grace
- |            |                              |
|------------|------------------------------|
| To:        | JV Boys Lacrosse – LHS       |
| Effective: | 2015-16 Spring Sports Season |
| Salary:    | Per Contract                 |

**Information Only**

- a. Teacher Assignment Changes for the 2016-17 School Year

8. Approval of Regular Session Minutes

- a. March 14, 2016  
b. March 28, 2016 Special Meeting

II. Superintendent's Report

a. Citations

Superintendent Fortunato reported **Margaret Rock**, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Northern Elementary, was presented the Golden Apple Award by Patrice Wood of WJAR and the Commissioner of Education. Rock is the eighth Lincoln teacher to win the award. Fortunato commented on her teaching attributes as a teacher for 27 years. Mary Anne Roll presented Rock with a Certificate of Recognition.

b. Northern Elementary School Presentation

Principal Ciminello gave an overview of the great Northern Elementary School, including the complete staff and cultural diversity of students. He showed a video of the school's many activities and learning exercises. Ciminello included a quiz for the School Committee and Administration members.

c. Approval of 2016-17 Virtual High School Contract

Motion to approve by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Rapko-Bruckner. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

d. Approval of 2016-19 Contract for EBEC NGSS Science Kit Program

Motion to approve by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Rapko-Bruckner. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

e. Discussion and Possible Approval of CDC Study/Survey Re: *Preventing Sexual Aggression Among High School Boys*

It was noted parents can opt out.

Motion to approve by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Rapko-Bruckner. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

f. Approval of Unbudgeted 1:1 Teacher Assistant – Lincoln High School

Motion to approve by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Rapko-Bruckner. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

g. Financial Report/Charter School Update

The Business Manager noted she is still projecting a zero variance. There was an uptick in medical claims in March. Miller noted this was expected since most have met their deductibles and claims will start to climb. Most tuitions have been paid for Charter Schools. She reported the variance in Capital was due to UCOA and charges being applied to the wrong line. This was also due to the student information system purchase.

### III. Awarding of Bids

#### a. Gas

The Business Manager reported there were bids for .139/therm and .229/therm. They are currently paying .129/therm. She recommended awarding the gas contract to Direct Energy for the next two years for .139/therm.

Motion to approve by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Rapko-Bruckner. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

#### b. Copy Machine – Lincoln High School Guidance

Lori Miller noted a year ago she had upgraded many copy machines for the district because the cost was low. This will result in a cost savings and the copier can act as a printer and save on toner. She recommended purchasing this copier at a cost of \$266.61/month for 48 months.

Motion to approve by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Rapko-Bruckner. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

### IV. Correspondence

#### a. Correspondence of Nora McNeilly dated March 19, 2016

Chairwoman Donabedian read a letter from Nora McNeilly, a parent and teacher in another district, regarding the elimination of February vacation. McNeilly listed several reasons for maintain that vacation, including illnesses and mental health issues and extending the summer, lengthening the gap in retention.

### V. Old Business

#### a. RIDE Stage II Waiver and Possible Vote Regarding Construction of Bathrooms and Concessions at Ferguson Field

The Chair requested waiting on a vote until all School Committee members are present. Attorney Ben Scungio explained that a Stage II request was submitted by the architect to RIDE with several items missing, so RIDE rejected the Stage II application. RIDE suggested that Lincoln could pursue all the items under the immediate health and safety protocol which Lori is currently working on. That left every single project with the exception of the concessions and bathrooms at Ferguson Field that could be addressed through an immediate health and safety request. A request for a waiver for Stage II could be submitted, but in a discussion with RIDE's chief legal counsel, David Abbott, he advised against that because one of the requirements of the waiver process is a special school committee hearing with 25 days notice to stake holders. Given the timing, the meeting would not occur soon enough and RIDE cannot waive a procedural requirement such as that. Mr. Abbott added that couldn't tell how soon the waiver request would be considered even if we had the hearing and he wasn't sure the concession stand would even be eligible for reimbursement. Ben noted that Mr. Abbott stated that the reimbursement request would be put at the bottom of RIDE's list because there are so many other critical projects statewide. Mr. Abbott suggested going ahead with the concession stand project and not seeking reimbursement or put it in with the next list of projects, i.e. the high school Stage II renovation. Attorney Scungio's recommendation is not to pursue a waiver based upon his conversation with RIDE's Chief Legal Counsel, David Abbott. Julie Zito asked if there was any recourse with those who left out items and Scungio wasn't sure Lincoln lost money. Without damages, there would be no recourse. The Superintendent will add this to the next agenda for consideration.

### VI. New Business

#### a. Discussion and Possible Vote Regarding Local Contribution for FY17 Budget

The Chair explained the budget subcommittee met to discuss whether the recommended funding is sufficient to preserve academics and athletics and to maintain current staffing levels. They discussed going forward with a petition which she is not recommending. The Chair noted it will be a very

difficult year. Staci Rapko-Bruckner expressed concern for any staffing cuts. Donabedian noted they can meet current staffing. Julie Zito asked the Superintendent to come up with where cuts would be and Fortunato noted she has started that. Mary Anne Roll commented there is so much they don't know, such as enrollment and the Budget Board pointed out the declining enrollment. She stated that is true but so many students are more needy and they don't know what those needs are until the student arrives. They may be forced to run a deficit.

The Superintendent noted a student from another school may require an additional position which may also require an assistant. They not only come with academic needs, but with emotional and social issues. The superintendent stated that there is no happy medium; the district can't have a surplus and they can't run a deficit. No action was taken.

b. First Reading Revised Use of Facilities Policy KG

Mary Anne Roll reminded the School Committee and the public that this is the first reading for review and to make comments. She noted the Policy Subcommittee spent a lot of time on this and a major piece was for Ferguson Field. They don't want this policy to discourage people from using the facilities and it does call for an annual review. The greatest cost is for custodians. Roll said they are looking to begin a reserve fund for the turf replacement which is extremely costly. The Business Manager is compiling rental records and when users were billed. Staci Rapko-Bruckner requested inclusion of those who weren't billed as well. Julie Zito doesn't believe school based groups should be charged for events. They are an enrichment to schools and billing goes against our Mission Statement to partner with the community. The draft will be posted on the district website and people can send comments to the Superintendent.

Motion to approve by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Rapko-Bruckner. Motion carried on a vote of 5-1, with Zito voting NAY.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

Julie Zito reported Stage 1 for the High School is almost completed and they will be submitting to RIDE shortly.

VIII. School Committee Reports

Mary Anne Roll reported she attended the National School Board meeting in Boston. It was a wonderful experience with presentations, workshops with thousands of members from across the country. There was one on the Mass Governor's Model, customer service and strategies.

IX. Community Comment

Fred Hoppe congratulated Northern Elementary for their teacher turnout for their presentation. He thanked the School Committee on behalf of the LTA for advocating at RIDE for the kids. He also commented that they need to look at mental health services.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:29 PM by Rapko-Bruckner. Seconded by Cavanaugh. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.